threat to the Cooperative Milk Dairies because of the scarcity of milk supplied through the cooperatives;

(b) whether the private milk dairies are thriving in the Western Uttar Pradesh and thereby causing impediment to the white revolution in the milk sector by the N.D.D.B; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to save the Cooperative milk sector from the growing private dairies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) By facilitating the amendment of the Cooperative Societies Act of the States, the Government seeks to provide more autonomy to. the cooperative dairy sector in determination of pricing of milk, professional management, appointment of Chief executives, etc.

1372. *[Transferred to the 12th May,* 1992]

1373. *[Transferred to the 12th May,* 1992]

Marginal and small farmers

1374. SHRI SARRADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of marginal and small farmers have increased according to the last Census ;

(b) what is the' number of agricultural labour and their percentage to agriculture-based population;

(c) the percentage and number of such farmers and land-holding under them, middle farmers and small farmers ; and

(d) whether it is a fact that around thirty percent farmers produce marketable surplus ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI IUULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the latest available census data the number of agricultural labourers were 74.65 million and their percentage to agriculture-based population was 14.21.

(c) As per latest agricultural census, 1985-86 data, the number of semi-medium and medium holdings together and small holdings' were 21.17 million and 17.92 million respectively and their percentage to total number of holdings were 21.8 and 18.4 respectively and the operated area under these holdings were 83.81 million hectares and 28.71 million hectares respectively.

(d) Information is not available.

पान की खेती

1375. **श्री राम नरेश यादव** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) किन-किन राज्यों में पान की खेती की जाती है और राज्यवार कितने क्षेत्र में इसकी खेती की जा रही है तथा इसमें कितने लोग लगे हैं;

(ख) क्या पान का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए किसानों को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु सरकार की कोई कार्य योजना है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुल्लापल्ली राम चन्द्रन) : (क) पश्चिम बंगाल, असम, केरल, आंध्र प्रदेश, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, उड़ीसा, बिहार, कर्नाटक, मध्य प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, महाराष्ट्र, मिजोरम, नागालैण्ड, त्रिपुरा, पांडिचेरी और उत्तर प्रदेश में पान के पत्ते की खेती की जाती है। इसका पूर्वानुमान नहीं लगाया जा सकता और अतः इसकी खेती के तहत के क्षेत्र का सरकारी आकलन उपलब्ध नहीं है।